

Hereford Heckler.co.uk

Independent anarchist news and views

FREEDOM, EQUALITY, COMMUNITY • #22 • FEBRUARY 2013



We're five years old!
herefordheckler.co.uk/fifth-birthday



Food bank moves to new premises

Demand for Hereford's food bank is now so high that it will move into new premises at the end of the month.

Planning permission was granted in January to the diocese of Hereford's independent Social Aid charity to operate the food bank from a former Victorian stable block behind the Green Dragon hotel.

Staffed by a small team of volunteers, it will distribute food bags and parcels to anyone submitting a voucher issued by social services.

The current food bank distributes around 50 food bags a week, plus 'crisis food parcels' for those in desperate need. Initial plans suggest that the new premises will be open to the public twice a week.

Last year, charity-run food banks in the UK fed more than 126,000 people. With the introduction of the government's harsher regime of benefits cuts this figure is likely to rise to over 200,000 this year.

The Trussell Trust is currently the UK's largest food bank charity, with over 300 in operation nationwide (there are



nine within a 10-mile radius of central Manchester). A typical Trussell food box contains a minimum of three days worth of nutritionally-balanced non-perishable food, with supplies coming from supermarket chains as well as private donations.

For many people at the sharp end of the cuts food banks like this are a vital lifeline. We encourage all our readers to help their fellow Herefordians by donating what you can. The current collection list is at herefordheckler.co.uk/food-bank-new-premises

Disabled people targeted by organised criminals

Disabled people across Herefordshire are bracing themselves as the government's draconian welfare cuts continue to bite. The most vulnerable people in our communities are been targeted by Jesse Norman and his cronies to take the brunt of these cuts.

At the heart of the governments plan is the replacement of the disability living allowance (DLA). This benefit is vital for those with disabilities as it enables them to live independently. Up to 500,000 people across the country will see this funding cut as the spineless toffs in Westminster replace it with Personal

Independence Payments (PIP).

Those people currently claiming DLA will now have their claims reassessed with eligibility criteria tightened in order to receive the crumbs on offer through PIP.

Politicians were more than happy to take photo opportunities with British Paralympians, but if you are disabled and lack sporting talent Jesse would clearly prefer it if you stayed out of the public eye.

You really are no different from the criminals who target vulnerable people, Jesse. Shame on you and the sheep who voted for you.

'Under-occupying' rules will make more homeless

Under new rules certain groups are expected to live in one bedroom only
herefordheckler.co.uk/under-occupying

But people are fighting back!
herefordheckler.co.uk/squaring-up-bedroom-tax

TK Maxx can jog on

Store to leave city centre. Good.
herefordheckler.co.uk/tk-maxx-jog-on

Badger cull gets June 'ok'

The cull is cruel and unnecessary and the science behind it is also disputed.
herefordheckler.co.uk/badger-cull-go-ahead-june

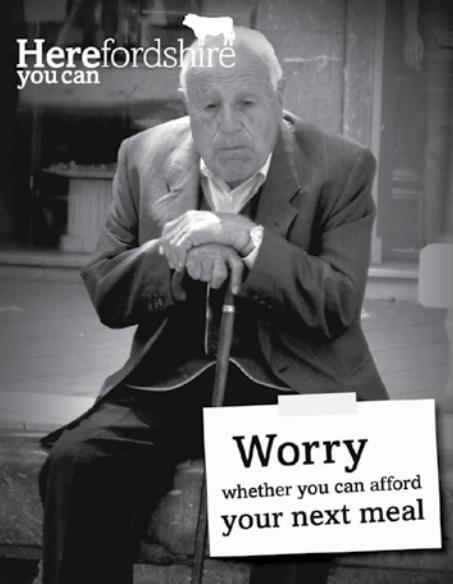
'Hereford is dying ... and it's all the council's fault'

Yeah, apparently.
herefordheckler.co.uk/hereford-is-dying

Hello? It's Our County? Wakey wakey!

Do they have anything to say about anything that's not the ESG?
herefordheckler.co.uk/wakey-wakey

Free rent for Waitrose or free meals-on-wheels?



herefordheckler.co.uk/meals-on-wheels-prices-rise



Scumbag: Lee Peters

All jolly good fun?

If you picked up the Hereford Times after Christmas you would've probably been forgiven for thinking that a number of great sporting events had taken place in the county on Boxing Day, all jolly good family fun and in keeping with the law. However nothing could be further from the truth.

The paper reported that the South Herefordshire Hunt had ridden off from the Castle House hotel in Hereford, accompanied with a number of pictures and reports from elsewhere in the county.

What their piece failed to report on is the reality of foxhunting in the countryside—the sometimes lengthy chasing and torturous killing of wild animals, continued flouting of the law, disregard for the safety of humans and hunting animals, violence and

intimidation towards those who disagree.

Lee Peters (pictured above) is a case in point: the huntsman of Ross Harriers, was fined nearly £3,000 after being found guilty of racially abusing a hunt saboteur and threatening another with violence.

Hunt saboteurs and monitors continue to watch the hunts and prevent them from carrying out any illegal hunting in the county every week, despite frequently facing violence and intimidation. Saboteurs have reported numerous successful outings to the Ledbury Hunt, Ross Harriers and a number of other hunt in neighbouring counties already this season.

Read the full story at herefordheckler.co.uk/all-jolly-good-fun



Film festival returns for 10th year

Established in 2003, the Borderlines Film Festival is now the country's best-supported non-metropolitan film festival. Bar none. Last year's attendances exceeded 18,000 and surely had a huge effect in establishing the Courtyard as the city's premier cultural hub. This year's festival runs from 1st–17th March. herefordheckler.co.uk/borderlines-2013

And check out our review of the Bafta award-winning Argo. herefordheckler.co.uk/mission-impossible

Radical bookstore reopens after arson attack

In the small hours of the 1st February an attacker forced open a shutter at the Freedom Press anarchist bookshop in east London and set the inside alight—the books were reduced to an inseparable block of pulp. Volunteers have since pulled together and the shop has now reopened. herefordheckler.co.uk/freedom-reopens

Local plod wake up to racist graffiti

Local police have finally decided it's time to start taking racist graffiti seriously and are now offering a £1,000 reward for information on the road signs that have been defaced around the county (swastikas and the hilarious 'welcome to Poland' feature heavily).

Concerns about immigration are one thing but racists should be given no time at all. These people are ignorant scum who enjoy nothing more than stirring up tensions between underprivileged locals and vulnerable foreigners.

Racism has no place in Herefordshire or the world beyond. Like the people who perpetrate it, it must be stamped out. herefordheckler.co.uk/racist-graffiti



Hereford Harriers need you!

Ever fancied a go at wheelchair basketball? Well your in luck! Hereford Harriers Wheelchair Basketball Club are currently looking for enthusiastic people, young or old, to join them.

Katie Camplin from the Harriers told the Heckler: "Wheelchair basketball is very popular and the rules are very similar to that of the able bodied sport. It can be played by people with or without physical disabilities. People of all ages and experience are welcome to join our club."

"We currently have training sessions at Whitecross School. Saturday sessions are 10–11am and offer you the opportunity to have fun and to learn wheelchair basketball skills. Sessions cost £5 for adults and £3 for children up to the age of 16."

So what are you waiting for, get involved! herefordheckler.co.uk/hereford-harriers-need-you

Anarchism is...

Anarchism aims to create a society without hierarchical authority. That means no divisions between rulers and ruled, workers and bosses, leaders and followers, order givers and order takers. It means decisions are made directly by those affected by them, not by authorities.

Anarchists believe in the necessity of 'direct democracy'. Rather than taking the management of their own affairs away from people and putting it in the hands of others, anarchists favour organisations which minimise authority. Instead of electing politicians to rule us, we can make our own decisions through face-to-face neighbourhood and workplace assemblies and voluntary confederations.

Anarchists are not opposed to organisation. Anarchy is about organisation. It is about voluntary co-operation between equals. We are opposed, however, to organisations based on authority and hierarchy. herefordheckler.co.uk/anarchism-is